



Australian Government



Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

Provider Bulletin

3 August 2022

Bulletins provide you with regular updates and guidance on the COVID-19 Vaccine Program.

Key Messages

ATAGI UPDATE

COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 6 months to under 5 years

Following the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) approval of the Spikvax (Moderna) vaccine for children aged 6mths to 5 years, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has provided recommendations in on the use of Moderna in children aged 6mths to under 5 years in certain **at risk populations groups**.

ATAGI [recommends](#) COVID-19 vaccination for **children aged 6 months to under 5 years** with **severe immunocompromise, disability, and those who have complex and/or multiple health conditions** which increase the risk of severe COVID-19.

The recommendation is for 2 primary doses, except for those children with severe immunocompromise who will require 3 primary doses. The recommended interval between each dose is 8 weeks.

At this stage, ATAGI **does not recommend** vaccination for children aged 6 months to under 5 years who are **not** in the risk categories for severe COVID-19. These children have a very low likelihood of severe illness from COVID-19.

The Australian Government has **accepted** this advice and will include the Moderna vaccine for **children aged 6 months to under 5 years** in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program from **5 September 2022**.

Moderna 6 months to 4 years Expression of Interest

The Expression of Interest (EOI) process for Moderna 6 months to 4 years **closed on Friday, 29 July 2022**.

Due to the limited cohort recommended for the vaccine, not all participating general practices will be selected to participate in this roll-out at this stage.

The Taskforce will be prioritising access to ensure the distribution of the vaccine to this initial cohort in the first instance. Prioritisation will occur based on geographic coverage of the eligible population, usage of current vaccines and expected patient numbers.

The outcome of the EOI will be released shortly and further advice on training, and the ordering windows will be provided to selected practices once responses to this EOI have reviewed.

It is expected that the rollout for this cohort will begin from 5 September 2022.

REMINDERS

Tips to avoid administering more booster doses than recommended

There has been number of vaccine administration errors (VAEs) where an additional off label dose has been administered to non-immunocompromised patient(s) who had already received a total of 4 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine (two primary course doses, a first booster and a 4th dose).

It is the responsibility of the vaccine provider to remain up to date with the current recommendations.

This information can be found on the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) [Clinical recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines](#) webpage.

Prior to administering you should:

1. Check Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) **before** administering **every** COVID-19 vaccine
2. Check if it's the correct vaccine for the individual patient cohort
3. Check if the dose interval is correct
4. Check if it's for the right age group

A detailed conversation is needed between patient and vaccinator to confirm the patient's eligibility and number of doses required for the individual situation.

The following resource posters are available to assist:

Don't forget to

check: https://covid19vaccinationtraining.org.au/pluginfile.php/213626/mod_resource/content/2/Checklist%20poster%20for%2012%2B%20Years.pdf

Children checklist poster:

https://covid19vaccinationtraining.org.au/pluginfile.php/210195/mod_resource/content/2/Children%20checklist%20Poster%20V4.pdf